

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As the summer terms draws to a close, I am pleased to provide the following information for your reference.

### **Celebrate our Academic Success!**

This year has been an exceptionally challenging one in terms of assessing; moving to assessing without levels and the constant changes and mistakes in terms of statutory testing as directed by the DfE and STA. Despite this chaos, Ashover School has once again achieved high academic success.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

Our Reception children have achieved really well with 70% making a 'good level of development' compared to the national average of 66% in 2015.

### **Year 1 Phonics Screening**

87% of cohort passed the phonics screening check compared to the national average of 77% in 2015.

### **Key Stage 1**

Children in Year 2 were assessed against brand new tests this year which reflected the elevated expectations of the new curriculum which was introduced in 2014. However, due to the grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) test being accidentally publicised by the DfE in advance of the tests, our children did not re-sit the GPS test.

To date, there are no national statistics with which to compare however, these results reflect a great deal of hard work and effort by both children and staff. The results are based on tests, work scrutiny and teacher assessments.

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>GPS</b>	<b>Science</b>
% Expected Standard or above	84%	76%	80%	77%	84%

### **Key Stage 2**

Children in Year 6 were also tested against new curriculum expectations – many adults would struggle to answer questions presented to our children in these tests – including Government Ministers it seems! These results are exceptional and well above national averages. The children should be very proud of their achievements as they have really 'pulled it out of the bag!' This is also a glowing reflection of the outstanding teaching and support children experience across our school.

	<b>National (% met standard)</b>	<b>Ashover School (% met standard)</b>
Reading	66%	93%
Writing	74%	93%
Maths	70%	96%
Reading, writing and maths	53%	89%
GPS	72%	85%
Science	Not issued	96%

Please note that there may be slight changes once data has been validated.

The DfE have advised that the 'interim assessment framework' applied this academic year will also apply next year so it appears, at the moment, that we know what to expect for the forthcoming year which hopefully will bring some stability to a seemingly uncertain future in education.

Overall, the children across the rest of the school have made good progress over the year across the curriculum. They are assessed against ARE (age related expectations) as detailed in the national curriculum which is available to view on our school website.

### **Draft Diary Dates: 2016/17 Academic year**

As last year I am pleased to advise you of some key dates for the forthcoming academic year. These are subject to change. Please refer to the website calendar for reference as it is updated regularly.

September	<b>Monday/Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Inset days</b>
	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher – Y2 3.30pm
	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher - Y1 3.30pm
	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher – YR 3.30pm
	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Book week (incorporating Roald Dahl Day 13 <sup>th</sup> September)
	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher – Y5 3.30pm
	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher - Y3 3.30pm
	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher – Y6 3.30pm
	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the teacher – Y4 3.30pm
	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of School AGM – 7.30pm
	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Play for a Day Y6
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	MacMillan Coffee morning/European day of languages (26/09/16) French breakfast / activity day	
October	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of School Quiz Night
	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Individual photographs
	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Clay Cross Music Festival at Winding Wheel 7.00pm
	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> –Friday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
November	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Bags2schools collection Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultation Evening
	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-bullying Week: Power for Good e-safety week
	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need Dress up day & photos for school calendar
December	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 Dress rehearsal
	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 performance
	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	KS1 performance
	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Reception & Nursery performance pm
	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Reception & Nursery performance am
	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 party
	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Y3/4 party
	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Y1/2 party
	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Disco
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Reception/Nursery Party	

		Non-uniform day
	<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>INSET DAYS</b>
	<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>
January	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Science Week
February	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day
	<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup>-Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Consultation Evening
	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February – 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Arts Week
March	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day
	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Comic Relief Day
April	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Y3/4 Dress rehearsal
	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Y3/4 Performance
	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Y3/4 Performance
	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Disco
	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Non-uniform day
	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April-Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>EASTER BREAK</b>
May	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	SATS week
	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bunting Cup
	<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>
June	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Screening Y1 Healthy Eating Week
	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sports day
July	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Fair
	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 dress rehearsal
	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Y/6 afternoon & evening performance
	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Disco
	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Non uniform day END OF TERM

### **Children's News by Gemma and Amira**

#### *Isle of Wight Residential*

Every year at Ashover Primary School the year 5's and the year 6's go on a school residential to the Isle of Wight. This year we travelled on a coach and then we got on the ferry. We stay at The Roseberry Hotel every year. We went to lots of places including: The Owl and Monkey Haven, Shanklin Theatre, Carisbrooke Castle, Alum Bay, I.O.W Zoo, Robin Hill Country Park, The Donkey Sanctuary, Shanklin Beach, Ryde Bowl and Action Stations. Lots of children enjoyed the Action Stations in Portsmouth the best.

#### *Queen's Birthday Celebration*

Ashover Primary School celebrated the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by having a non-uniform day where we all wore red, white and blue clothes. We also did a lot of work including art and writing to create a display that is now up in our corridor leading to the hall. At lunchtime we had a street party. We had a picnic lunch outside that included sandwiches, chips, cookies and some other foods.

#### *Year 5 and Year 6 Show*

This year it was called 'Ali Baba and The Bongo Bandits' and we performed it at Tupton Hall for all our parents and grandparents. We give a big thank you to Tupton for kindly letting us use their facilities. We also had it filmed so that we will never forget it – it was brilliant!

## **Sporting Success**

### *Sports Day*

Mrs Hallsworth would like to thank the parents who kindly agreed to lend gazebos to school for the afternoon which allowed us to keep the children cool and sheltered on the hottest day of the year! Congratulations to Hardwick Reds who were the overall champions, however it was a very close run competition so all children should be congratulated on their efforts and their excellent behaviour throughout the afternoon.

### *Visit to the Olympic Park*

Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Watson took 10 Year 5 and Year 6 children to the Olympic Park in London this month. The event was organised by Tupton Hall School and we were invited because of our participation at Go Run for Fun. It was an amazing opportunity for all involved and the children ran a mile on the track along with 4000 other children from all over the country.

### *Football*

Ashover Primary School football team have had a good season. In the Clay Cross school's league they finished top in their group, but narrowly lost, after extra time, in the semi-final to eventual overall winners Parkhouse.

Due to the atrocious weather, the Coleman Cup was cancelled for this year, but was replaced with a play competition a few days later, with Ashover entering 2 teams. Ashover A finished runners up on goal difference to Sharley Park and the B team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place. A great afternoon was had by all and the children played well as a team.

### *Ashover Juniors FC U7: from David Walsh*

Elliott King, Jonny Elliott, Joe Boulby, Oscar Glossop and Joe Watson in Y2 recently represented Ashover Juniors FC Under 7s at the Bolsover Football Tournament. The club was among the smallest there, facing bigger clubs like Chesterfield, Tibshelf, Hasland and Barlborough. Yet against the odds, Ashover won ALL its group matches, edged a gripping semi-final match after extra time and then won the final 4-0! They've ended a brilliant first season as champions. They did themselves, Ashover Juniors FC and Ashover Primary School proud.

### *Cricket*

Ashover played in the Kwik Cricket North East Derbyshire District final and going into the last game needed a win to clinch the title, but unfortunately lost in the final game and came third overall. A fantastic day was had by all and the children played superbly and were a credit to the school.

## **Clubs for Autumn Term 1**

Please note that clubs will not commence until the third week of term which will allow the staff to plan and the children to sign up for their preferred clubs during weeks 1 and 2.

## **New Kitchen**

The new kitchen is now up and running and fully functional! I would like to thank you for your patience during what has been a very challenging project! In addition, I'm sure that you would join me in thanking our catering team who have had to put up with extremely difficult circumstances to continue to produce meals whilst we had no kitchen on site. They have recently been awarded 'Gold' by the local authority for the quality of meals they produce which is testament to the high quality service they provide – so thank you and many congratulations ladies!

## **Staffing**

As you may be aware, we say a fond farewell to a number of staff this term; Mrs Beatson, Mrs Butler and Miss Wedlock. I know that you will join the school staff, governors and children in thanking them all for their dedication and commitment to the school during their time at Ashover. They will all be missed and we wish them the very best of luck in their new positions.

Mrs Greenway will also not be returning in September as she is due to begin her maternity leave for Baby Greenway number 2! We wish her a happy and healthy maternity leave and look forward to meeting the new arrival!

Mrs Rodda is planning to be with us for a week or so on our return in September, however, as babies tend to be very unpredictable may I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Rodda and her family, and once again wish her a happy and healthy maternity leave – we also look forward to meeting the new arrival to the Rodda family!

We look forward to welcoming Miss Hardy to Reception, Mr Richard Wilson to Year 1 and Mr Robin Wilson to Year 4 in September. Parents of children in those classes will have the opportunity to meet them at the 'meet the teacher meetings' detailed on the draft diary sheet above.

### **Friends of School**

The children, school staff and I would like to say an enormous thank you to our very committed and hardworking Friends of School team. This year they have raised over £7000 which has enabled us to make numerous improvements; the library, the outdoor area, run trips/visits and organise workshops or visitors to school to name but a few. All of this enhances the school experience for children across the school and without this support, many enrichment activities and improvement projects would not be possible due to an increasingly restricted school budget.

There is a great deal of planning and hard work that goes on behind the scenes to run events such as May Day BBQ, Summer Fair, Discos, and the many other fundraising events they organise and they give their time freely with very little recognition or thanks and on occasions, some inappropriate criticism from other parents. So I extend our sincere thanks to all of Friends of School for their hard work and dedication. FoS is always looking for new recruits, so if you think you would like to become part of this team, please join us at the AGM on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September in the portacabin at 7.30pm.

### **Good Bye and Good Luck!**

As previously mentioned, the children in Year 6 have worked incredibly hard over the year and are a fabulous group of young people. All the staff, children and governors would like to wish each of them the very best of luck as they transfer into secondary school. We'd like to also thank the parents of children in Year 6 for their support over the years. So good bye and good luck Year 6 – we will miss you all!

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Hallsworth and all the staff for the support they have shown me over the last academic year – they are a fantastic team and I feel very privileged to work with them.

I wish everyone a very happy and safe summer break and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs V Spender**

Headteacher

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Vicky Spender | **Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs Sharon Hallsworth | **Chair of Governors:** Andrew Coates

